

Retiree RETIREE

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REPORT

2000

Fairfax County Retirement Systems Board of Trustees Meetings

January

12	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
19	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
26	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

February

09	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
16	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
23	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

March

08	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
15	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
22	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

April

12	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
18	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
26	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

May

10	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
17	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
24	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

June

14	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
21	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
28	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

July

12	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
19	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
26	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

August

23	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM
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September

13	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
20	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
27	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

October

11	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
18	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
25	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

November

01	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
08	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM
15	Uniformed Retirement Board	9:00 AM

December

13	Police Officers Retirement Board	1:30 PM
20	Supplemental Retirement Board	3:00 PM

*Fairfax County
Retirement Administration Agency
10680 Main Street, Suite 280
Fairfax, Virginia 22030*

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Retiree Report

February 2000

A Publication from the
Fairfax County Retirement Agency

Is your Rx Plan Giving you Headaches ???

Several months ago, Capital Care/Care First changed pharmaceutical companies. To say there have been transition problems will sound like an understatement to many of you. Unfortunately, the problems have been many and they worsened early in December. Whether this was due to end-of-year ordering, slowdowns due to Y2K concerns, slower mail delivery, or just poor customer service by the new pharmaceutical company, has yet to be determined. CapitalCare is in the midst of an investigation of

the many complaints they have received.

While we at the Retirement Agency can't move the investigation along any faster, we can make several suggestions to help your mail order prescriptions be processed more smoothly.

First, and most important: If you have not received a prescription for which you now have an immediate need, **please call Member Services** for Fairfax County employees and retirees at

1-800-441-1164

The representatives have been advised of the problems and are prepared to do anything necessary to get the medication you need, into your hands as soon as possible. In certain cases, where the mail order prescriptions are delayed or missing or need to be reissued by your doctor, CapitalCare can authorize an override of the co-payment to allow you to pick up your prescription at your local pharmacy without paying an additional co-pay. It gets tricky though. You need to call for this override, which can take 24-48 hours; then, after the override has been

processed and is in the system, your doctor can call the prescription in to your local pharmacy. If your doctor calls it in *before* the override shows up, it will process like a normal prescription and you *will* be charged a co-pay. *If that happens*, please go ahead and pick up your medicine, take it on schedule, and file for a reimbursement. Please do not miss taking your medication because of problems with the Rx Plan.

Second, do not wait until you are out of your medicine to call. Even this override process takes several days, not including weekends.

When you are given a NEW prescription from your doctor that he expects you to take on a long-term basis, ask your doctor for TWO written prescriptions. The first should be written for 30 days and **SHOULD** be taken to your local pharmacy. The second Rx should be written for 90 days with refills up to one year. You must have a new, written prescription from your doctor to continue medication beyond a full year's time. The

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This is IMPORTANT to you

if you retired
WITH health insurance
on or before June 30, 1993.

A "Special Open Season" enrollment period is currently in effect until June 30, 2000. To be eligible to re-enroll in a county sponsored health plan you must meet **both** of the following criteria: (1) you must have retired from either the Fairfax County Police Officers, Supplemental, or Uniformed Retirement Systems on or before June 30, 1993; and (2) you must have had health insurance with a county sponsored health plan when you retired. If you have since dropped your former county health plan and would like to re-enroll, you may do so during this one-time "Special Open Season" enrollment.

If you meet the eligibility criteria above and would like additional information, call the Retirement Agency. After you have reviewed the county sponsored health plans currently being offered, you will have until June 30, 2000 to re-enroll at the current rates. If you did not have health insurance when you retired on or before June 30, 1993, you cannot enroll at this time. If you do not care to re-enroll with any of the county sponsored health plans, no action is required by you.

FYI: Retirees who have Life Insurance Coverage through the County

Very soon, those retirees who have life insurance through Minnesota Life as of January, 1999 will be receiving a packet of information in the mail. The contents are for your information **ONLY**. There is no action required on your part.

Spotlight on The Retirement Agency

On December 1, 1999, Carol Rowe Patterson joined the Fairfax County Retirement Agency as Information Officer. She replaces Doug Sachs who has moved to a position in Benefits in the Department of Human Resources.

A 1984 graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in Public Relations, Carol has spent the past 16 years as a creative director and production manager for a variety of local companies. While with Ski Chalet/Any Mountain Tours, Carol designed travel brochures and advertising materials.

More recently, during her 5-year tenure with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, her special project was the design and production of all the printed materials for the opening of the new National Airport. In addition

to her creative responsibilities at the Airports Authority, Carol coordinated special events for the Communications Department.

Carol has been a resident of Fairfax County since birth. She is an avid reader and enjoys traveling. Her most memorable trip was a sailing adventure across the Atlantic on a 36-foot sailboat, followed by a year sailing the Mediterranean with a friend and two cats. She also enjoys "castle-hunting" in Europe.

In her spare time, she enjoys party and event planning, especially imaginative birthday get-togethers for her 4-year-old daughter Brittany.

In addition to her other responsibilities, Carol will be coordinating the *Retiree Report*. This quarterly newsletter is sent to approximately 4,000 Fairfax County retirees from the Supplemental, Uniformed, and Police Officers retirement systems currently living throughout the United States. In an effort to make this newsletter as interesting and informative, she would appreciate your input. If you have suggestions or requests, call Carol at 703-279-8227 or 1-800-333-1633.

Is your Rx Plan Giving you Headaches?

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Rx company will not continue filling prescriptions beyond the year's time limit even if the Rx slip has been written for longer. (Remember, it is YOUR responsibility to make sure your doctor understands how your plan requires a maintenance prescription to be written. It should be written for a 90-day supply with refills up to one year.)* For example: Medication A: You are supposed to take a 2mg pill 3x a day - the Rx should be written for a quantity of 270, 2mg pills with three refills. This will give you a one year supply of Medication A.

Question??? *My doctor told me I would be on this medicine for the rest of my life. Why do I have to renew every 90 days and get a new written prescription every year?*

Answer 1: *This is for your protection. You may need a change in dosage, an evaluation of its effectiveness or an entirely different prescription.*

Answer 2: *To keep overall pharmaceutical costs down. If you receive a 90-day supply and your doctor changes your medication or your dosage, the balance of your 90-day supply goes to waste.*

Please remember, this mail order benefit is meant to be a *maintenance prescription* benefit. It is less expensive to get a larger supply because processing time stays the same, but the quantity is greater. It is *not intended as a substitute for your local pharmacy* for new prescriptions and short-term medications. Even if your doctor tells you his expectation, when starting you on a new medication, is that you will be on it for the rest of your life, you need to have it filled for the first time locally. **Why?** Your doctor may need to change the medication or the dosage in the early days of a new prescription.

Prescriptions are \$10 each for generic drugs and \$15 each for brand name drugs. You never have to use the mail order option - that is meant to be an added benefit to help you save money on maintenance drugs. Do not endanger your health by considering the mail order option your only means for accessing a prescription.

***If you do not want or cannot take the generic equivalent, make sure your doctor specifies "brand name only" on the prescription or you will be required to pay the difference in cost between brand name and generic drugs when the generic is available.*

Third, always fill out and enclose one of the "ABC" Rx forms with your new prescriptions. Under C on the checklist, the directions make it sound like you only need to fill out a form the first time you order. NOT SO! What they mean is, fill out a new form every time you order except for refills. For refills, they send you a slip they expect you to return with your payment. Fill out A completely and B for you and any family member for whom you have enclosed a prescription. The form is confusing and a lot of extra work but it should cut down on the number of errors in processing. Use the envelope that is attached to the form to return your Rx and the form along with your check or credit card information. Apparently, they are not currently able to bill members and will not fill your order unless they receive your payment along with the order. The people who do not enclose payments are experiencing delays because Advance Paradigm is not calling members to advise them of this.

Finally, if you send in your refill slip too early, your Rx will not be processed until after the date printed on the slip. Many of you, having experienced difficulties, have tried sending those slips in early and still experienced delay. That is because there does not seem to be a very good tracking system in place and many things are getting set aside or misplaced.

When trying to resolve a problem with your prescription order, use the phone numbers below:

Advance Paradigm
1-800-241-3371

If they cannot or do not help to your satisfaction, call

CareFirst/BCBS/CapitalCare
Customer Service

Register an official complaint and ask them for assistance in resolving your specific problem

1-800-441-1164

Hopefully the billing issue will be resolved as such time these other problems are addressed. We will do our best to keep you informed. In the meantime, if there is any further assistance we can give you, please let us know.

If you want to submit receipts for reimbursement or write a letter of complaint to Capital Care, please address it to:

CareFirst/BCBS/CapitalCare
Customer Service Research
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20065

Please send copies of any complaint letters to:

Peter J. Schroth, Director
Department of Human Resources
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Pky., Ste. 258
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
and

Don A. McCorry
Retirement Administrator
Retirement Administration Agency
County of Fairfax
10680 Main Street, Suite 280
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

DIRECT DEPOSIT - - The Smart Choice

Don't waste time making unnecessary trips to your bank or credit union, or worrying about a check. Ask us to sign you up for direct deposit. Then you can spend your time however you wish, doing things that are really important.

Consider the Advantages:

Direct Deposit is safe. Your money is sent electronically to your financial institution; your benefits can't be lost or stolen.

Direct Deposit is reliable. It's never late. Your benefit payment is in your account on the last working day of the month.

Direct Deposit is convenient. Your benefit is deposited to your account even when you are traveling, visiting family and friends, fishing, golfing, reading and enjoying your retirement.

Direct Deposit saves you money. Direct Deposit saves you money by eliminating transportation costs to your financial institution.

To sign up for Direct Deposit, complete the application below. Have your financial institution fill in the portion in the box, and return the form to the Retirement Agency. If you have any questions, call (703) 279-8200 or (800) 333-1633.

DIRECT DEPOSIT AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT

Instructions: Before you submit this application, please have a representative of your banking institution verify your account number and bank transit number. Completed applications should be sent to the Fairfax County Retirement Agency; 10680 Main Street, Suite 280; Fairfax, VA 22030.

Name of Retiree: _____ Social Security No: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Retirement System: (check one) ☐ Supplemental County ☐ Supplemental Schools ☐ Uniformed ☐ Police

Account Number: _____ Type of Account: ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

I authorize the County of Fairfax, Virginia to initiate credit entries to my account indicated above in the depository named below. I also authorize the County of Fairfax to draw drafts or to initiate debit entries on my account for the purpose of withdrawing money from my account, but solely in order to adjust an error resulting from a deposit or credit entry that has been made under this authorization in the amount that is not correct.

Since there is a slight possibility that my account will not be credited in a timely manner, I understand that I must check with my depository to verify that my account has in fact been credited before engaging in any financial transaction which is dependent on the existence of the credit entry.

This authority is to remain in effect until the County of Fairfax has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford the County of Fairfax reasonable opportunity to act on it. I also understand that should my bank change any of its accounts or routing numbers I will have to submit a new form with the updated information to the Retirement Agency so the correct account will continue to be credited.

Please note that after receipt of this form, a \$0.00 deposit will be transmitted to the account listed on this form to verify its accuracy. In that month, your check will be sent to you in the mail.

Retiree Signature: _____ Date: _____

To Be Verified By Banking Institution

This form must be signed by a bank representative before it can be processed.

Name of Depository/Bank: _____

Address: _____

BANK/TRANSIT/ABA Routing Number: _____

Financial Institution Certification: I confirm the transit/routing number and account number for the individual named above. As representative of the above-named financial institution, I certify that the financial institution agrees to receive and deposit the payment identified above in accordance with CFR Parts 240, 209, and 210.

Signature of Representative: _____ Date: _____ Phone: _____

Inching-UP Age for Social Security Benefits

A 16-year-old law gradually raising the eligibility age for full Social Security benefits kicks in this month. Initially, the change affects only those born in 1938 – people who turn 62 in 2000 and become eligible for Social Security's early retirement option.

Such individuals can still choose to collect reduced Social Security benefits this year. But if they do, their early-retirement benefit will be slightly less than in the past.

Should those born in 1938 decide to retire when they are eligible for full Social Security benefits, they will have to wait two months longer, until two months after their 65th birthday.

Under the 1983 law, the traditional age 65 retirement threshold will be raised in increments to 67 by 2027. "Americans are living longer and healthier lives, which is very good news, but the system needed to create greater incentives [for people] to work longer," said Social Security Commissioner Kenneth S. Apfel.

(AARP Bulletin, January, 2000)

How to Read Your 1099-R Form

All retirees, beneficiaries and survivors who received a monthly benefit check or refund (with the exception of service-connected disability retirees) will receive a form 1099-R by the end of January. This form shows the gross amount of benefits you received in 1999 as well as any federal or Virginia state income tax withheld, if applicable, from your benefit payment.

The information on your 1099-R should be reported on your federal and state income tax return. If you do not receive your 1099-R by February 11, 2000, please call the Retirement Agency at (703) 279-8200 or (800) 333-1633.

Below is a brief key to the information on your 1099-R form:

Box 1 - shows everything paid to you by the retirement system in 1999.

Box 2a - shows the taxable amount of your benefit. The difference between this figure and the one shown in Box 1 represents the portion of already-taxed contributions you made to the System which were included in your payments in 1999.

Box 4 - shows the amount of federal income tax withheld.

Box 7 - A code required by the IRS showing the type of payment.

Box 10 - shows the amount of Virginia State tax withheld.

Form 1099-R <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTED (if checked)		OMB No. 1545-0119	1999	
1 Gross distribution		2a Taxable amount		
2b Taxable amount not determined		Total distribution		
PAYER'S name, street address, city, state, and ZIP code				
PAYER'S Federal identification number		RECIPIENT'S identification number		
3 Capital gain (included in box 2a)	4 Federal income tax withheld	5 Employee contributions or insurance premiums		
6 Net unrealized appreciation in employer's securities	7 Distribution code	IRA/SEP/SIMPLE	8 Other	%
9a Your percentage of total distribution		9b Total employee contributions		
RECIPIENT'S name and street address (incl. apt. no.), city, state and ZIP code				
Account number (optional)		10 State tax withheld		
11 State/Payer's state no.		12 State distribution		
13 Local tax withheld	14 Name of locality	15 Local distribution		
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service				